



NEW HEIGHTS SCHOOL

Academics • Balance • Citizenship
The Power of Choice

October 2020

Based on Principal HYBRID LEARNING UPDATE

In Mid-July I was having a hard time believing school would be open for students this fall. We waited for what seemed like an eternity for the governor to make the announcement directing school leaders on how we were expected to open up the year; full-time, hybrid, or in-person for all. This decision was ultimately left to school leaders to decide at the local level, but with some firm guidelines. These guidelines have to do with the number of positive test cases per 10,000 people per county. As you now know, the data for Washington county allowed for full-time for elementary students, but only hybrid for secondary. New Heights has no choice but to follow our resident district Stillwater because we contract with them for transportation; meaning we have to follow the schedule they put in place for district schools. That aspect is what primarily drove our decision, meaning we have to do hybrid because we can't provide busing 5 days per week.



Each week a new report is generated on Thursdays by the MN Dept. of Health regarding a sliding two week-data report on positive test cases for each county. The number of positive test cases in each county is what dictates the learning model schools within those counties can offer. The good news is that the last two reports have shown decreases to positive cases in Washington County. But, before we get too excited, as recently as this morning, the news is reporting new spikes in several states and Minnesota has made that list. We are watching this as closely as we can, and we are as eager as our families to get our lives back to something close normal as soon as possible, including the hope of resuming school on a full-time basis someday. If the numbers do continue to go down and once we are sure that Stillwater district is operating smoothly, we intend to consider extending our hybrid days to longer sessions if possible. There are several moving parts that would need to align before doing that, but it is something we are looking at for later this fall or early winter. Watch for more news on this later in the season.

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IMPORTANT DATES

- Oct. 1 Elementary Math NWEA Testing
- Oct. 15-19 No School
- Oct. 20-26 Elementary Reading NWEA Testing
- Oct. 22 Picture Day
- Oct. 22 School Board Meeting via Zoom
- Oct. 30– End of First Quarter



PICTURE DAY

Covid-19 has impacted virtually all aspects of life and school, including Picture Day. The restrictions put forth by the government have made it difficult for the photographers to get into the schools and get all of the pictures taken in the amount of time it takes with social-distancing regulations in place. So, our date was obviously moved back to Mid-October and we are putting our plan in place, which you will soon receive notice about.

The general idea is that we will host picture day by asking families to come to school during a time block.

In other words, we need families who would like to come to the school and get a professional portrait taken of your child to make a reservation and to be at the school during the time frame reserved for them. We will have them go directly into the gym and have their child's picture taken and then off they will go. Students in school on picture day will not need a reservation. It will be quick and safe. As I said, more details will be coming soon, and after we send the details we will be taking reservations for time slots. Note that there will be no make-up day, so this will be on one day only.

SEPTEMBER RECAP

Finally, I do feel that we are off to a great start, all things considered. The students seem to be very glad to be able to come into school. They are following our new expectations, they are getting the instruction and support they seem to need and want, and they are maintaining a healthy and realistic attitude. Most of our distance-learners seem to be logging into the system daily, attempting to get their work done, and many have found the appropriate way to reach



the teachers when needed. We do still have some students who are struggling to check-in each day, some seem to be struggling with the technological aspects of completing and submitting work, and a few simply aren't seeming to be engaged. To close I want to renew our invitation for families to consider sending your kids to school on A day or B day. The school day is currently only 3.5 hours. Students are able to be in a safe bubble, interact with peers, but best of all, they are able to get the academic support each needs

in person. It is so much easier and better to get the help in person. We accept and respect each family's decision to stay home during this time, but we do encourage you to consider sending your children in for 2 days per week if it is possible. We are operating safely and so far we have had no positive test cases associated with our students and families. Of course, we intend to preserve that statistic by continuing to follow the government's guidance. If you would like to consider changing your child's status, either way, simply call the school and we can discuss your

preferences and facilitate the change as appropriately as possible. Students currently in distance-learning mode who would like to try to attend either A day or B day could receive an in-school schedule starting as soon as October 1st. Students attending in-person who wish to go to distance-learning can do so as soon as next day. All that is needed is for a parent to call the school and request the change.

Thank You and stay safe!

Thomas Kearney, Principal, Superintendent

FREE MEALS PROGRAM

Free Meals are available to both Distance Learners & Hybrid-Flex learners. 100% distance learners will receive meals for all scheduled school days and Hybrid-Flex learners will receive meals for the days they are not on campus. Meals include both lunch and breakfast and can be picked up on Fridays (unless otherwise noted for holidays, etc.) from 11am – 12:30pm at *Stillwater Area High School* or *Brookview Elementary*. **For more information please contact Lindsay Berberich** at 651-439-1962 or Lberberich@newheightsschool.org.



**Please remember to fill out the application for free and reduced meals even if your student is full-time distance-learning!*

New Teacher Feature

MS. RICH – SPECIAL EDUCATION

Ms. Rich is joining the New Heights staff for the first time this year. You may have seen her around before because she has completed several of her observations at New Heights for her Bemidji State University Masters Program in Special Education. She has recently made the switch from being a project manager in the tradeshow industry. Before that, she was a Senior Sales Representative and a Project Coordinator for an IT company.

1. What inspired you to become a teacher?

Becoming a mother helped me realize how much I enjoy working with kids and how important it is for them to have positive influences in their lives throughout their educational journey.



2. What do you enjoy most about teaching?

Getting to know my students and helping them see how much they are capable of. I love learning from them, guiding them through challenges, and celebrating their successes!

3. What is the most exciting thing you've ever done?

Zip-lining through the Monteverde Cloud Forest in Costa Rica!

4. What is something people would be surprised to know about you?

I am terrified of swimming in the ocean.

5. What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

Spending time with my daughter Jocelyn, cooking/baking, visiting family and friends, and hiking through Minnesota State Parks.



PARENT PARKING ON MULBERRY STREET

Attention Parents:

Please avoid dropping students off in front of the building between the school bus signs before and after school. Parent pickup and drop-off is now located on Mulberry Street by the gym doors.

Thanks for helping keep our students safe!

FUNDRAISING FOR NEW HEIGHTS SCHOOL

Remember that you can support New Heights through the AmazonSmile program! When you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice.



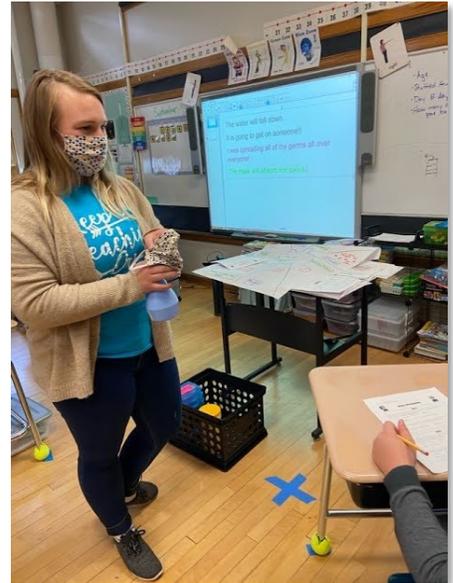
Every item available for purchase on www.amazon.com is also available on AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com) at the same price.

Be sure to select New Heights Schools Inc. as your charity of choice!

A Peek Inside New Heights Classrooms

Everyone can see that school looks a little different this year. At New Heights, we are trying to teach students how to be safe while learning.

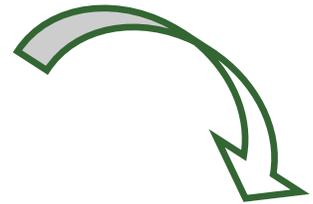
The 4th through 6th graders were able to see why wearing a mask is important. Ms. Geil did an exploration for them to see the effect of masks and social distancing using a spray bottle and a mask! Students were able to discover that the mask diverts any spray that people generate when they are talking and slow the spread of germs!



The 6th-Graders attending New Heights on “B” days are ready to Roar into Middle School this year!



Check out Mrs. Hogan’s Students!



Follow New Heights School on Social Media!



New Heights School is now on both Facebook and Instagram! Follow us for school updates and pictures of our students and staff throughout the year!

@New Heights School



@new_heights_school_mn

New Heights All- Inclusive Playground Update



This past year, the 6-12th grade students at New Heights raised \$700 for the playground through the Penny Wars game!

This summer, families, staff, and community members donated to the New Heights School Yard Sale that was hosted in July. This yard sale made an additional \$1,633 towards our playground goal!

Through a wide variety of sources including grants, our yard sale and Penny Wars, the New Heights Playground is up to 7% of their total goal!



Follow the progress of this goal on Facebook as well!

@New Heights School Playground



New Heights has also hired a grant writer to help us get closer to achieving our goal through outside sources!

We have raised \$43,242 so far!



October Monthly Planner

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

				1	2 Elementary K-5 NWEA Math Test	3
4	5	6	7 	8	9	10
11	12 	13	14	15 No School MN Educators Conferences	16 No School MN Educators Conferences	17
18	19 No School Staff Development	20 Elementary K-5 NWEA Reading Test	21 Elementary K-5 NWEA Reading Test	22 Elementary NWEA- Reading Test School Board Meeting 2pm Picture Day	23 	24
25	26 Elementary K-5 NWEA Reading Test	27	28	29	30 End of 1st Quarter	31 Halloween

Upcoming Events:

No School Monday and Tuesday, November 2nd and 3rd

Tele-Conferences in early Nov. More info coming soon!